

well-organised body of native foresters, and we had to make use of men rejected for the Army, of soldiers temporarily released, of Canadian and Newfoundland lumbermen, Portuguese, Finnish seamen from torpedoed ships, prisoners of war, and women workers. A contingent of United States lumbermen came over in 1917, but was presently transferred to the American Forestry Corps in France. This miscellaneous array of labour had a task of vital importance to fulfil. For our timber imports in 1917 were perforce cut down very *How* the drastically. Whereas in 1913 they had 'Sieved' amounted altogether to over iii million tons, in 1917 they were reduced to 2,875,000 tons. Part of this reduction was provided for by very careful economies. A great deal of our requirements for our Expeditionary Force was met by forestry work in France. At home we raised the output of timber of all kinds in the United Kingdom from the pre-War level of about 900,000 tons to 3,000,000 tons in 1917. In 1918 this was increased still further to over 4 million tons, of which 2,000,000 tons represented mining timber. The imports in 1918 were reduced by 1,200,000 tons from the 1917 level.

The nature of the labour used for this work is shown by the following extract from a Report of the Timber Supply Department at the end of 1918 :—

" At ist October, 1918, the Department employed 8,728 British workmen ;

1,740 Portuguese ; 1^124 surplus seamen, mostly
Finns from torpedoed
ships. 84 Danes
Timber
Department
war; and 2,323 35 prisoners of
Women Fellers and
Measurers. In
addition, the Canadian Forestry Corps
in Great